

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS
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SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION ON ODARTEY-WELLINGTON

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MAJOR-GENERAL NEVILLE ALEXANDER ODARTEY-WELLINGTON, NAMED COMMANDER OF THE GHANA ARMY AND MEMBER OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL ON JULY 6.

2. BORN JUNE 18, 1937, CAPE COAST, CENTRAL REGION, GHANA. MEMBER GA TRIBE. EDUCATED AT THE ACCRA ACADEMY THROUGH SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 1954. ATTENDED AND GRADUATED ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, SANDHURST 1960-61. COMMISSIONED SECOND LIEUTENANT DECEMBER 1961. SERVED WITH U.N. FORCES IN CONGO IN 1961. ATTENDED ROYAL SERVICE CORPS YOUNG OFFICERS COURSE CIRCA 1962 BUT DID NOT COMPLETE COURSE DUE TO RECALL TO DUTY. JUNIOR STAFF DIVISION COURSE, GHANA, AUGUST-DECEMBER 1964. PROMOTED TO MAJOR MARCH 1966 AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER, GHANA ARMED FORCES. ATTENDED INFANTRY OFFICERS' COURSE AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, 1967, SHOWING SPECIAL APTITUDE FOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. HE ATTENDED UK STAFF COLLEGE AT CAMBERLEY 1971. EARLY JANUARY 1972 COMMANDER FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALION.

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3. LATE 1972 PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND NAMED EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE GHANA TIMBER MARKETING BOARD. IN THIS CAPACITY ATTENDED ILO MEETING IN GHENVA AND TRADE FAIRS IN ALGIERS AND TRIESTE IN 1973. NAMED COMMANDER, 1ST INFANTRY BRIGADE (BASED AT TESHIE NEAR ACCRA) JUNE 1974 AND GAINED RESPECT FROM HIS TROOPS AS A GOOD LEADER AND

AS A SOLDIER RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN. IN OCTOBER 1975 HE BECAME COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH AND A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL. IN THAT POSITION HE GAINED RESPECT AS AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATOR BY INSPECTING HEALTH FACILITIES AND THEN RETURNING SOON AFTERWARDS TO CHECK IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. HE DISMISSED SEVERAL EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBLE FOR SALE OF DRUGS AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES. MEDICAL OFFICERS HAD HIGH ACCLAIM FOR HIS DESIRE AND ABILITY TO LEARN MANY ASPECTS OF THE MEDICAL FIELD AND ITS ADMINISTRATION.

4. IN JANUARY 1977 HE BECAME COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE, AUGUST 1977 MEMBER OF THE MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL. DECEMBER 1977 AGAIN MADE COMMANDER OF FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE.

5. SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, GA AND FANTI, WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH. MARRIED, FATHER OF AT LEAST FOUR CHILDREN. IS AN ACCOMPLISHED EQUESTRIAN.

6. COMMENT: WAS EXCEPTIONALLY FRIENDLY TO DAO LT. COL. WOLFF IN 1977. POLITICALLY, HE IS STRONGLY PRO-BRITISH BUT HAS ALSO MADE COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ABOUT THE U.S. HIS REPUTATION IS GENERALLY UNTARNISHED BY HINTS OF CORRUPTION. IN 1972 HE WAS RE CONFIDENTIAL

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PORTELDY OPPOSED TO ACHEAMPONG'S SEIZURE OF POWER. EMBASSY IS RECEIVING INCREASING REPORTS THAT HE WAS A PRIME MOVER IN MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL'S DEMAND FOR ACHEAMPONG'S REMOVAL IN LATE JUNE WHICH LED TO PALACE COUP OF JULY 5. HE IS ONLY NEW FACE ON THE GOVERNING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND, AS ARMY COMMANDER, REPORTEDLY WIELDS STRONG INFLUENCE ON GOG POLICY.

HOLMES

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